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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

MAJOR PROGRAMME 1. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 8, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and subsequently revised by the Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and issued in document A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1. The revisions reflect the transfer of the Office for Outer Space Affairs from the Department of Political Affairs to Vienna in line with the further restructuring of the Secretariat. Certain changes to account for most recent resolutions and decisions of the legislative and deliberative organs of the United Nations are also proposed.

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 8.10, 8.12, 8.14, 8.15 of A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1, and proposes new paragraphs 8.16 and 8.17.

A. Programme

Replace all references to the "Department of Political Affairs and Office of Legal Affairs" throughout the narrative of this programme with "Office for Outer Space Affairs".

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 8.5

In the first sentence, after the newly inserted words "Office for Outer Space Affairs", insert ", which has been relocated from New York to Vienna since October 1993".

Replace the second sentence with the following: "The work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs is based exclusively on the mandate given it by the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the Office receives a renewed mandate for its work at each session of the General Assembly."

In the third sentence, replace "Outer Space Affairs Division will continue to be committee servicing" with "Office for Outer Space Affairs will be committee servicing, which has been expanded since its relocation to Vienna to include the servicing of the Legal Subcommittee, in addition to that of the Committee and of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,".

In the third sentence, delete "; for the Office of Legal Affairs, the servicing of the Legal Subcommittee".

Paragraph 8.6

In the second sentence, replace "Department of Economic and Social Development" with "Department for Development Support and Management Services" and "UNDRO" with "the Department of Humanitarian Affairs".

In the fourth sentence, insert "Ad Hoc" before "Inter-agency" and delete "of the Administrative Committee on Coordination".

In the last sentence, replace "Department" with "Office".

B. Subprogramme

SUBPROGRAMME. PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 8.8

At the end of the paragraph, add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/72 of 11 December 1990, 47/67 of 14 December 1992 and 48/39 of 10 December 1993.

Paragraph 8.10 — Replace "resolution 44/46" with "resolution 48/39".

In subparagraph (m), replace "The elaboration of draft" with "The question of early review and possible revision of the".

Add new subparagraphs 8.10 (r) and (s) as follows:

"(r) Matters relating to the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the future;

"(s) Matters relating to space debris."

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

Paragraph 8.12 — Replace the second sentence with the following: "The Office for Outer Space Affairs will be responsible for providing these services."

Paragraph 8.14 — In the first sentence, insert "and" after "seminars".

Paragraph 8.15 — Replace paragraph 8.15 with the following:

"8.15 In compliance with General Assembly resolution 45/72, the Office for Outer Space Affairs continues to make progress on the establishment of regional centres for space science and technology education. These centres, which are to be established in each region, would provide individuals from the developing countries with the necessary education and training in space-related disciplines and applications that are required for them to reap many practical benefits of space technology. The Office will complete, with the assistance of donor countries and other international organizations, a series of evaluation missions to each region, and it is expected that the first operational centre, in the ECLAC region, will be established in 1995."

After paragraph 8.15, insert two new paragraphs as follows:

"8.16 In its resolution 44/46, the General Assembly endorsed the designation of 1992 as International Space Year and its use as a vehicle for promotion of international cooperation, which should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries. International Space Year was highlighted by globally coordinated planning for space programmes extending into the twenty-first century. 'Mission to Planet Earth', which was a central focus of the International Space Year, saw scientists world wide using space technologies to assess such threats to the Earth's environment as global warming,

deforestation and ozone depletion. In response to the recommendation of the General Assembly in its resolution 47/67, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will actively encourage the continuation of activities initiated for International Space Year and will continue to promote broader involvement in those activities by more nations.

"8.17 Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 47/67 and 48/39, a major focus of the Office's work for the remainder of this medium-term period will be to support discussions in the intergovernmental committees on the planning of a possible third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space."